Rs. 11680 crore have been undertaken by the Government in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years and 23 no. of projects with estimated cost of Rs. 204.07 crore have been undertaken in current year. Out of these, 71 no. of projects have been completed and the balance projects are at various stages of implementation.

(c) For the projects being implemented by NHAI including NHDP, funds are not allocated State-wise. The expenditure incurred by NHAI on National Highways Development Project and other projects during the last three years including current year is Rs. 7302.34 crore. Amount allocated and expenditure incurred for the NH projects implemented by Government of Tamil Nadu during last three years are Rs. 265.63 crore and Rs. 255.68 crore respectively and those for the current year are Rs. 105.81 crore and Rs. 84.59 crore respectively.

(d) The projects in progress are at various stages of implementation and likely to be completed in three years time.

Damage to NHs in Orissa

1214. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about a number of National Highways getting affected during flood or heavy rainy seasons every year in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government not taking any measures and corrective action to avoid these damages which is taking place almost every year during rainy seasons;

(c) if so, the number of National Highways badly damaged in Orissa at present; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take fast reconstructive measures to avoid inconvenience to general public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken necessary measures to rectify the damages and to keep the National Highways in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(c) and (d) During the current year flood, 14 National Highways in an aggregate length of 1924.50 km have been damaged. The Government has already taken steps to repair the damages of National Highways stretches immediately to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

India's position in road accident death figures

1215. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that India tops the list outnumbering China about the deaths related to road accidents;

(b) if so, the details of road accidents during the last three years and till date;

(c) the steps being taken by Government for setting up driver training schools, launching publicity campaigns, roping in NGOs and providing ambulances along highways; and

(d) whether Government is coordinating with State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per the data published by International Road Federation in their World Road Statistics 2007, the number of persons killed in road accidents during year 2005 was 98738 and 94968 for China and India respectively. However, the data in respect of China for the year 2006 (source:- China govt. website http://english.gov.cn/) has been reported as 89445 and corresponding data for India is 105749.

(b) The details of road accidents and persons killed in India during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of Road Accidents	No. of Persons killed in road accidents
2004	429910	92618
2005	439255	94968
2006 (P)*	460920	105749

P*. Provisional

(c) The safety of road users is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. This Department has, however, taken following steps for setting up driver training schools, launching publicity campaigns, roping in NGOs and providing ambulances along highways:

(i) **Model Driving Training Schools**: Financial assistance is being given to States/UTs for setting up model driving training schools to produce well trained drivers and impart refresher courses to drivers. The main elements of the scheme are: provision of land by State/NGO; responsibility for operation of school and recurring cost by the State/NGO at technical project appraisal/supervision by Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT), Pune. So far 13 proposals from States/NGOs in West Bengal, Assam, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala. Himachal Pradesh, NCT of Delhi, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have been approved and funds sanctioned.

(ii) **Refresher training for heavy vehicle drivers**: The Department of Road Transport and Highways has launched "Two days refresher training for heavy motor vehicle drivers in unorganized sector" to inculcate safe driving habits, to acquaint drivers with road safety regulation and upkeep of vehicles in road worthy condition. During the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) and the Tenth Plan (2002-03 to 2006-07) 15740 and 192218 drivers have been trained respectively. During the year 2007-08, sanction to impart training to 59850 drivers was issued. The target for the current financial year *i.e.*, 2008-09 is fixed at 75000.

(iii) **National Highway Accident Relief Service Scheme**: The scheme provides for supply of cranes and ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs for relief, rescue and evacuation of accident victims to nearest medical aid centre and for clearing the accident site. Besides NHAI also provides ambulances at a distance of 50 Km on each of its completed stretches of National Highway under its operation and maintenance. So far 437 ambulances and 252 cranes have been deployed on completed stretches of National Highways.

(iv) **Road Safety Programme through NGOs**: Through this Scheme, the road users are made aware of the road safety rules, signages and safe usage of both vehicle and the road through NGOs. 125 NGOs were sanctioned grant in 2006-07 involving an amount of Rs. 1.49 crores whereas 121 NGOs were sanctioned grant in 2007-08 involving an amount of Rs. 1.73 crores. Applications of NGOs are scrutinized and selected by a Screening Committee of the recommendations of the State Governments.

(v) Publicity as well as Awareness campaigns on road safety have been conducted through audio-visual-print media by the Department of Road Transport and Highways.

(d) The activities at (c) (i)-(v) above are undertaken in close coordination with/on recommendations of the State Governments and UTs.

Economic implications of road accidents

1216. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as per the World Bank estimates every year road accidents cost India about 3 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product which was more than $1 trillion in 2007;

(b) if so, whether Government has calculated economic implications of road accidents amounting to approximately one lakh a year;

(c) whether Government is also aware that potholed roads, inadequate safety regulations, a scrappy licence system and a lax attitude towards drunken and underage driving are all blamed for accidents that kill an estimated 275 people every day; and